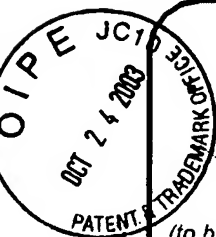


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# TRANSMITTAL FORM

(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)

<b>Application Number</b>	10/620,324		
	<b>Filing Date</b>	July 14, 2003	
	<b>First Named Inventor</b>	Robert Charles Downs	
	<b>Group Art Unit</b>	3652	
	<b>Examiner Name</b>	Unassigned	
<b>Total Number of Pages in This Submission</b>	5	<b>Attorney Docket Number</b>	36-000410US

## ENCLOSURES (check all that apply)

<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached <input type="checkbox"/> Amendment / Response <input type="checkbox"/> After Final <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request <input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts/ Incomplete Application <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PTO-1449 form <input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers <input type="checkbox"/> Petition Routing Slip (PTO/SB/69) and Accompanying Petition <input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation Change of Correspondence Address <input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer <input type="checkbox"/> Small Entity Statement <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund	<input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to Group <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Group (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief) <input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information <input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Additional Enclosure(s) (please identify below): receipt acknowledgment postcard
<b>Authorization to Charge Deposit Account</b> Please charge Deposit Account No. 50-0893 for any additional fees associated with this paper or during the pendency of this application, including any extensions of time for consideration of the documents enclosed.		
Remarks		

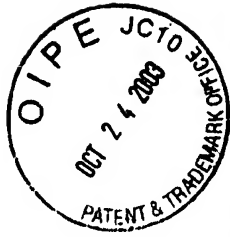
## SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT

Firm or Individual name	Christopher C. Sappenfield, Reg. No. 45,073, Quine Intellectual Property Law Group P.C.		
Signature	<i>Chris Sappenfield</i>		
Date	October 21, 2003		

## CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO or deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date shown below.

Typed or printed name	Deborah Berwick		
Signature	<i>Deborah Berwick</i>	Date	October 21, 2003



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QUINE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW GROUP, P.C.

By Deborah Berwick  
Deborah Berwick

Attorney Docket No. 36-000410US  
Client Ref. No. P0023US10

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Robert Charles Downs, et al.

Application No.: 10/620,324

Filed: July 14, 2003

For: GRIPPING MECHANISMS,  
APPARATUS, AND METHODS

Examiner: Unassigned

Art Unit: 3652

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR § 1.97 and  
§ 1.98

Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

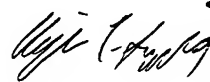
The references cited on the attached PTO-1449 form are being called to the attention of the Examiner to make of record references cited in parent application USSN 09/793,254 (now U.S. Patent 6,592,324) filed February 26, 2001. Copies of references cited in parent application USSN 09/793,254 (now U.S. Patent 6,592,324) filed February 26, 2001 are not provided. However, the applicants will gladly provide fresh copies of any references requested by the Examiner. U.S. Patent 6,592,324 is also cited on the attached PTO-1449 form and a copy thereof is enclosed herewith.

It is respectfully requested that the cited information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and the references be made of record therein and appear among the "references cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

As provided for by 37 CFR 1.97(g) and (h), no inference should be made that the information and references cited are prior art merely because they are in this statement and no representation is being made that a search has been conducted or that this statement encompasses all the possible relevant information.

Applicant believes that no fee is required for submission of this statement, since it is being submitted prior to the first Office Action. However, if a fee is required, the Commissioner is authorized to deduct such fee from the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 50-0893. Please deduct any additional fees from, or credit any overpayment to, the above-noted Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



Christopher C. Sappenfield  
Reg. No. 45,073

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CCS:db

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Substitute for form 1449A-B/PTO

Complete if Known

Application Number	10/620,324
Filing Date	July 14, 2003
First Named Inventor	Robert Charles Downs
Group Art Unit	Unassigned
Examiner Name	Unassigned
Attorney Docket Number	36-000410US
Date Submitted	October 21, 2003

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

Use as many sheets as necessary

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Cite No.	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appeal
		Number	Kind Code (if known)			
	1	4,465,416		Burkhalter et al.	08-14-1984	
	2	4,662,811		Hayden	05-05-1987	
	3	4,714,865		Chin et al.	12-22-1987	
	4	4,715,637		Hosoda et al.	12-29-1987	
	5	4,894,103		Bailey	01-16-1990	
	6	4,923,054		Ohtani et al.	05-08-1990	
	7	4,944,650		Matsumoto et al.	07-31-1990	
	8	4,952,115		Ohkase	08-28-1990	
	9	4,975,484		Nomaru et al.	12-11-1990	
	10	5,022,695		Ayers	06-11-1991	
	11	5,061,144		Akimoto et al.	10-29-1991	
	12	5,062,756		McArthur et al.	11-05-1991	
	13	5,100,285		Wagner	03-31-1992	
	14	5,162,047		Wada et al.	11-10-1992	
	15	5,192,106		Kaufman	03-09-1993	
	16	5,201,501		Fassler	04-13-1993	
	17	5,253,911		Egan et al.	10-19-1993	
	18	5,308,222		Bacchi et al.	05-03-1994	
	19	5,328,224		Jacobsen et al.	07-12-1994	
	20	5,445,486		Kitayama et al.	08-29-1995	
	21	5,541,485		Teichmann et al.	07-30-1996	
	22	5,543,022		Nguyen et al.	08-06-1996	
	23	5,549,444		Debuit	08-27-1996	
	24	5,669,644		Kaihotsu et al.	09-23-1997	
	25	5,697,480		Herbermann et al.	12-16-1997	
	26	5,700,046		Van Doren et al.	12-23-1997	
Examiner Signature					Date Considered	

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Application Number	10/620,324
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First Named Inventor	Robert Charles Downs
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Examiner Name	Unassigned
Attorney Docket Number	36-000410US
Date Submitted	October 21, 2003

	27	5,778,742		Stuart	07-141998	
	28	5,810,935		Lee et al.	09-22-1998	
	29	5,863,086		Christenson	01-26-1999	
	30	5,870,488		Rush et al.	02-09-1999	
	31	5,871,248		Okogbaa et al.	02-16-1999	
	32	5,944,476		Bacchi et al.	08-31-1999	
	33	5,945,798		Stagnitto et al.	08-31-1999	
	34	6,015,174		Raes et al.	01-18-2000	
	35	6,116,848		Thomas et al.	09-12-2000	
	36	6,305,898		Yamagishi et al.	10-23-2001	
	37	6,322,119		Schmidt et al.	11-27-2001	
	38	6,409,241		Hughes et al.	06-25-2002	
	39	6,474,712		Govzman et al.	11-05-2002	
	40	6,592,324	B2	Downs, et al.	07-15-2003	

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Cite No.	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T
		Office	Number	Kind Code (if known)				
	41	GB	2,185,458	A	Mars Incorporated	07-22-1987		

## OTHER PRIOR ART - NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Cite No.	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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